



THE TWIG BENDER

August

2011

Greenwood UMC

Stewardship

Using Your Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Ask any pastor: it's never easy to talk to the congregation about stewardship.

Whether it's a sermon, a letter to the congregation or an article in the newsletter, any talk of stewardship is almost automatically viewed as a plea for money.

To be sure, Greenwood needs your tithes and offerings. Regardless of whatever else is going on, we've got to pay the utility bills, insurance premiums and so forth, just as you do. We are keeping our financial head above water right now – your continued financial support is much appreciated.

However, keep in mind that there's more to stewardship than writing a check to Greenwood. Stewardship means using your gifts from the Holy Spirit to further our work of "making disciples of all the world."

Soon you'll have an opportunity to do just that. In many of his letters, the Apostle Paul wrote about using your gifts from the

OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Please pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ

Lawrence Allen, Virginia Agee, Brian Beckley Jr., Ashley Draper, Leola Frayser, Thomas Jackson, Jane Gray Kibler, Tony Loving, Betty McKee, Pat Moran, Virginia Moran, Alvin Patteson, Betty & Harvey Roach, Rita Robinson, Benjamin Shannon, Lavelle Sheffield, Steve Sheffield, Carolyn Stone, Gloria Slingerland, Ann Taylor, Johnny Taylor, Mary Walker, Kim Winfrey

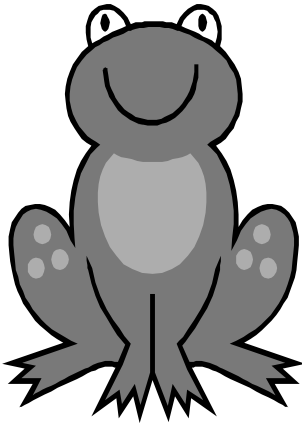
(Continued on page 10)

From The Pastor

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ

I first would like to thank everyone for their cards and their prayers during my recent surgery. They have helped lift my spirits and aided in my recovery. The people of Greenwood and Laurel Park churches will always hold a special place in my heart.

I would like to share some information that was shared with me about membership commitment. It was not too long ago that I was in conversation with a few pastors as we explored the meaning of membership in the church. It is a known fact that there are many names on church roles that have not been active in many a year for one reason or another. This is what prompted our conversation and the following is some of what has come from that discussion.



These were some of the comments made when asking about membership: "My family has always

(Continued on page 8)

August Communion Offering



FREEDOM
HOUSE

"Our mission is to embrace those in crisis and welcome them into a stable and supportive environment where self-sufficiency and independence may be achieved"

Methodist Minute:

Life Application Topic - Faith

The church can spend a lot of energy trying to figure out who is in the kingdom and who is out. Interestingly, the boundary lines seem to form around those who believe the same way we do!

Jesus offers us some surprises about faith. The centurion is not even of the household of Israel, yet Jesus celebrates his faith (Luke 7-9). Is it possible that faith can be in unexpected persons?

Jesus sees faith not as a matter of accepting certain doctrinal teachings, but as a trust that God can bring transformation (Luke 7:6). In the Wesleyan tradition the journey of faith includes an expectation of transformation, change and holy living. (From the Wesley Study Bible)

Mark Your Calendar

CARITAS is Coming

Greenwood will host CARITAS September 24 through October 1. This is probably one of our biggest outreach programs of the year.

There are a few items that we will be needing for the goody bags that we make up for our guests. We will be needing toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, deodorant and any other personal items you can think of. There will be a box in the Narthex for you to place these items.

Remember these are our guests and we want to treat them as such. If anyone would like to help prepare dinner one night please call Adamarye Patteson 266-6364.



Vacation Bible School

Dive In! Paddle Out! Catch a Wave!

Join us at Greenwood's Vacation Bible School

August 1 — 5, 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

When the weather turns hot and humid, there's only one place to go —THE BEACH! At the beach, where cool water meets a blue sky, warm with sunshine, life seems easier.

Everyone from toddler to teen finds it easy and natural to play—digging in the sand, floating in the waves, catching sand crabs and picking up shells. This summer, you can take the sights, sounds and smells of the best beach trip ever, right here at Greenwood!



Best of all, this beach trip brings our vacationers to daily encounters with Jesus! Through stories about Jesus' actions, SonSurf Beach Bash will give your kids answers to five big questions about Jesus:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why can I trust Jesus?
- Why do I need Jesus?
- How can Jesus help me when I mess up?
- What does Jesus want me to do?

Annual School Supplies Drive

School will be starting soon and we need your help. As we have in the past few years, our congregation is collecting school supplies to donate to our local elementary school students. Many stores which carry these items are running special sales right now! Further, the 2011 sales tax holiday on school supplies will be August 5 – 7.

You can bring your donated items in and leave them in the Just Friends Sunday school classroom adjacent to the Narthex. The last collection day will be Sunday, August 21. Each item collected will go to help make a child feel special and let them know that God loves them.

Your contributions will go directly to students in need at Greenwood Elementary. Sponsored by the Henrico Education Foundation Here is a list of some of the most commonly used elementary school supplies:

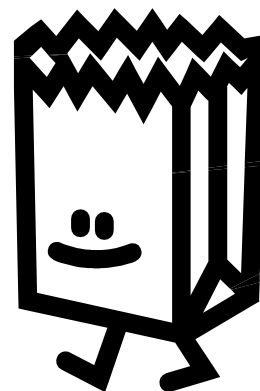
- Black And White Composition Books
- Glue Sticks
- Boxes of Crayons
- Boxes of Washable Markers
- Plastic Pencil Boxes
- Loose Leaf Paper (Wide Ruled)
- Yellow #2 Wooden Pencils
- 1 and 3 Subject Spiral Notebooks
- Yellow Highlighters
- 3x5 Lined White Index Cards
- Book Bags/Backpacks
- Pocket Folders



FunRaisers

Bag Lunch – pick up after church service August 28. Menu: ham and cheese, deviled eggs, chocolate éclair cake, chips — all for only \$7.00. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office 266-5341.

FunRaisers' next big project is to buy a screen and projector for the church sanctuary. We hope to buy all the equipment to allow us to step into the 21st century. This would be a real asset to the church, enabling us to have slide shows and other capabilities. It will take a long time to pay for this, but we are hoping you will continue to buy our bag lunches after worship services so this can happen.



Fellowship Dinner

August 10 at 6:30 p.m. Menu: Bar-B-Q plate, slaw, French fries, corn on cob, strawberry jello, all for only \$5.00.

Please sign up on the form in the church bulletin or call the church office at 266-5341.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Glen Allen Day — September 17, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Crump Park

CARITAS — September 24 — October 1 in the Education Building

Charge Conference — October 23, 4 p.m. at Laurel Park UMC

Community Thanksgiving Service — November 22 at TBD

Christmas Cantata — December 18 in the Sanctuary

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LAMB'S Basket

5612 Greendale Road, P. O. Box 3064
Henrico, Virginia 23228-9701

June 7, 2011

Greenwood Methodist Church
10040 Greenwood Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060-4558

To Our Christian Brothers and Sisters:

LAMB's Basket greatly appreciates the donations from your congregation of funds, food items, volunteer hours, and prayers. It takes all of this and more to support the food pantry. We could not serve the needy in Henrico County without the many churches, organizations, and individuals that take the time and make the effort to feed the hungry in our area.

On behalf of the LAMB's Basket Board of Directors and management team, thank you for everything. Usually a note is sent to churches at the time of each donation; however, several churches have suggested we send an acknowledgement of total donations only once a year. Teddy Martin, LB president, concurs that this would be satisfactory.

Although you will receive only one acknowledgement of our gratitude, please know ALL donations are greatly appreciated!

Again, many thanks,
In His Service,

Beverley Fletcher
Treasurer

Cc: Teddy Martin, President

From the Pastor ... continued

(Continued from page 2)

been a member of that church. I don't want to change my membership, why should I?" Some have even said that they wanted to be buried in that church and asked "after I die what difference does it make?" Surprised?

Here are 7 things that you should think about with your church membership.

1. Show God's love through your words, attitudes and actions.
2. Participate in Sunday worship, to glorify and praise God.
3. Connect with other Christians in a small group knowing that you need support of others in order to grow in obedience to Christ.
4. Unite with fellow church members as your sisters and brothers in Christ, and welcome all newcomers as friends.
5. Discover and develop your calling for ministry so you may serve Christ in ministry within the church to build up the body of Christ, and in mission with the world to reveal God's reign.
6. Give "the first fruits" of your wealth to God through the ministries of my church.
7. Pray regularly for the ministries of our church, our staff, our leaders, and our church family as part of your commitment to care for your sisters and brothers.

If each one of the members of our churches followed these 7 steps imagine how strong our churches would be! Maybe each church should have someone to call every member each week and ask if they are keeping their commitment to God – after all it is His church.

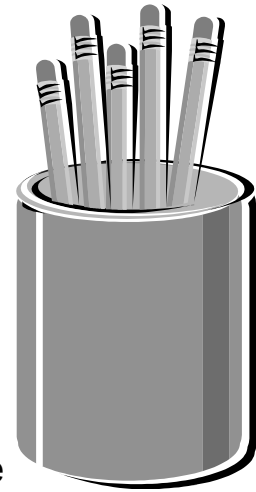
Shalom,

Dean

Be a Pencil

A pencil maker told each pencil:

- Everything you do will always leave a mark.
- You can always correct the mistakes you make.
- What is important is what is inside of you.
- In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better.
- To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.



We all need to be sharpened constantly . This parable may encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are, it's what's inside of you.

***The Twig Bender* — Trying Something Different**

We've changed the way we distribute your Greenwood UMC newsletter. Rather than mailing them out, we're going to hand them out to folks at worship services.

. Some copies we'll have to continue to mail — to shut ins for example. You can also read the newsletter on Greenwood's website, www.gumcva.org.



Tell us what you think about this new distribution method. Give your feedback to Rev. Dean or Steve, or e-mail admin@gumcva.org.

Stewardship Update

(Continued from page 1)

Holy Spirit. One is Romans 12:6-8 (see the sidebar below.) Paul encourages his readers to serve, teach, encourage, give generously, lead and show mercy. To view a few of the opportunities to serve at Greenwood, see the table on page 13.



Soon you will have an opportunity to put your spiritual gifts to work. The church's nominating committee will be seeking people to volunteer for the various lay positions that keep Greenwood going.

This year, the nominating committee is especially looking for volunteers to chair the Annual Fall Fair, to chair the Outreach Committee and members for the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Pray about opportunities to volunteer and say "yes" when the nominating committee calls.

Use Your Spiritual Gifts

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully." *(Romans 12:6-8 NIV)*

Opportunities for Greenwood Volunteers

Lay Leader	Lewis Daniel	Works with pastor and other laity to develop the church's shared vision, to help see that church's missions are consistent with that vision, that progress toward our goals is being met and that needs of the local church are communicated to annual conference and the general church.
Treasurer	Gay Stapleton	Maintains church accounts; writes checks and ensures that expenditures are properly recorded according to church budget. Helps ensure that church is abiding by all applicable state and federal financial regulations and UMC policies.
Finance Committee	Chair: Ray Smith	Supervises receipt and expenditure of church funds; ensures that UMC policies regarding use of funds are adhered to. Meets every month, typically on first Monday.
Financial Secretary	Nancy Lloyd	Ensures proper accounting of any receipt of funds to church accounts; deposits funds to bank each week; ensures each contributor gets a yearly statement of giving. Assisted each week in counting of offering by a volunteer to insure accuracy.
Nominations Committee	Chair: Dean Pittman	Seeks those in congregation willing and able to serve on various church committees and lay leadership positions, ultimately allowing congregants to use their God given talents to grow in faith. Meets in August and September.
Staff/ Pastor Parish Relations	Chair: Steve Stalnaker	Church's HR department. Recruits, hires, and manages performance of paid church staff, guided by UMC personnel policies; meets quarterly.
Trustees	Chair: Bob Stapleton	Ensures property and facilities of church are maintained; meetings called by the chairman and announced in advance to the congregation

Greenwood Church Family Celebrations

Birthdays



Nancy Yeary	August 3
Mike Workman.....	August 4
Virginia Wagner	August 7
Alan Daniel	August 9
Ray Smith	August 13
Kristen Bellino.....	August 14
Jeannette Jackson.....	August 14
Gina Lahocki.....	August 22

Anniversaries

Jamie & Jason Smith	August 20
Carolyn & Ray Smith.....	August 29

Live Simply, Love Generously
 Serve Faithfully, Speak Truthfully,
 Pray Daily ...
 Leave everything else to God

Church Office Volunteers

Now that it's vacation time we still need alternates to cover the church office when the regular volunteers are away. The church office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call Gay Stapleton at 672-8408 or the church office at 266-5341 if you can help.

July Attendance and Offerings

“Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce”
— Proverbs 3:9

Date	Sunday School	Worship	Giving
July 3	26	52	2,846.00
July 10	28	58	1,735.50
July 17	23	49	1,043.71
July 24	22	58	1,664.50
July 31	Numbers not available at press time		
<i>July Totals</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>7,289.71</i>
<i>Weekly Averages:</i>	<i>24.75</i>	<i>54.25</i>	<i>1,822.43</i>

\$2,725 offering needed weekly to meet Greenwood's 2011 operating budget of \$141,712. Your generosity is appreciated

Greenwood Circles ...
... will resume meetings in September

The Twig Bender

is a publication of Greenwood United Methodist Church

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 After School Phone: 804-266-6668
 Email: admin@gumcva.org
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m.
 Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Pittman

PASTOR'S HOME
 11090 Quail Whistle Drive
 Glen Allen, VA 23059
 804-262-1628

Visit our web site at www.gumcva.org